

Message Text

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SA/VN:WEDEMAN (INFO)

EA:STEARNS (DRAFT)

USIBRD:REYNOLDS (DRAFT)

EA/VN:WENZEL (INFO)

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TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

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AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 109166

AIDAC

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, XC

SUBJECT: PROPOSED MEETING OF INDOCHINA DONORS' GROUP

REF: STATE 22110

MANILA FOR USADB

1. IBRD IS CURRENTLY CONSULTING WITH ITS DIRECTORS CONCERNING PROPOSED MEETING WEEK OF JULY 8 IN PARIS ON AID TO INDOCHINA. MEETING UNDER IBRD/ADB SPONSORSHIP WOULD BE SECOND MEETING OF PROSPECTIVE DONOR GROUP WHICH MET IN PARIS OCTOBER 1973. IT WOULD REPLACE MEETING WHICH WAS POSTPONED FROM FEBRUARY 1974, PER REFTEL.

2. IBRD'S ACTION IS IN RESPONSE TO REQUEST FROM NEW GOVERNMENT OF LAOS (PGNU) WHICH HOPES RESULT WILL BE EARLY FORMATION OF CONSULTATIVE SUB-GROUP FOR LAOS. REQUEST FOR MEETING WAS MADE TO IBRD OFFICIAL RAYMOND GOODMAN BY PGNU DEFENSE MINISTER SISOUK AT RECENT ADB MEETING IN KUALA LUMPUR. SISOUK SAID HE SPOKE ALSO FOR THE FINANCE MINISTER, WHO IS PATHET LAO MEMBER OF PGNU. BANK CONSIDERS THIS A FORMAL REQUEST. IBRD UNDERSTANDS GOVERNMENT OF LAOS HAS ALSO APPROACHED ADB WITH SIMILAR REQUEST. IBRD NOW HAS TEAM IN LAOS AND EXPECTS TO PROVIDE REPORT ON LAOS PRIOR TO MEETING.

3. RE PROSPECTS FOR FORMATION CONSULTATIVE SUB-GROUP FOR SOUTH VIETNAM AS WELL AS LAOS, IBRD EXPRESSED VIEW THAT MILITARY AND ECONOMIC SITUATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM NOT

CONDUCTIVE TO FORMATION SUB-GROUP AT THIS TIME. USG VIEW, AS POINTED OUT TO BANK, IS THAT THOUGH FIGHTING CONTINUES IN SOME AREAS, WE BELIEVE CONDITIONS ARE CONDUCTIVE TO EARLY ESTABLISHMENT OF CONSULTATIVE SUB-GROUP FOR SVN AND BELIEVE SUCH GROUP WOULD CONTRIBUTE SIGNIFICANTLY TO ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL STABILITY IN REGION.

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4. USG SUPPORTS PROPOSED MEETING. IF, AFTER CONSULTATION WITH MEMBERSHIP, IBRD AND ADB DECIDE TO CONVOKE MEETING, USG PLANS PARTICIPATE AND SUPPORT FORMATION ON CONSULTATIVE GROUP FOR LAOS. IT WILL ALSO PROMOTE AS FAR AS PRACTICAL FORMATION DONORS GROUP FOR SOUTH VIETNAM SOONEST, AT LEAST COMPRISING THOSE DONORS ALREADY PROVIDING ASSISTANCE.

5. WE DO NOT RPT NOT BELIEVE THAT EMBASSIES SHOULD MAKE
OVERTURES TO HD HOST GOVERNMENTS CONCERNING THIS MEETING
AT THIS TIME. IF APPROACHED CONCERNING USG ATTITUDES,
YOU SHOULD RESPOND THAT USG FAVORS MEETING, WILL
PARTICIPATE AND WILL SUPPORT FORMATION CONSULTATIVE GROUP
SOON AS PRACTICAL WITH SUB-GROUPS FOR BOTH LAOS AND SOUTH
VIETNAM. DESPITE CONTINUED HOSTILITIES IN SOME AREAS,
SECURITY AND ECONOMIC CONDITIONS ARE FAVORABLE TO ESTAB-
LISHMENT SUB-GROUP FOR SVN AND ESTABLISHMENT SUCH GROUP
WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL STABILITY.

GDS RUSH

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